

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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R 011415Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4852

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4969

USIA FOR IEU; IGC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL, RO

SUBJ: RE-EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN LIBRARY RENTAL ISSUE

REF: STATE 134435

1. THE ODCD (ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR RENTAL AND ADMINISTRATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROPERTIES) SENT A LETTER TO THE EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 23 IN RESPONSE TO OUR MAY 30 LETTER REGARDING ITS DEMAND FOR INCREASED RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE AMERICAN LIBRARY. THE LETTER REITERATES THE ODCD POSITION THAT RENTS FOR THE ROMANIAN LIBRARY IN NEW YORK AND THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BUCHAREST ARE SET AT EQUAL AND RECIPROCAL LEVELS. THE INCREASES REQUESTED BY ODCD ARE FOR TAXES (I.E. NOT RENT) LEVELED ON ROMANIAN LIBRARY IN NEW YORK. AS AGENCY KNOWS, THIS IS AN OLD SAW ON WHICH WE HAVE NEVER REACHED UNDERSTANDING WITH ROMANIANS SINCE IT WAS FIRST RAISED IN NOVEMBER 1972.

2. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS SUBJECT HAS REACHED STAGE WHERE IT MUST BE RESOLVED AND SOON. NEGOTIATIONS WITH ODCD ON THIS ISSUE TO DATE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. WE NOW PROPOSE TO BRING PAO AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIRECTLY INTO NEGOTIATIONS. AGENCY WILL NOTE WE HAVE REQUESTED BACKGROUND FROM FORMER LIBRARY DIRECTOR BOB GEIS IN LENINGRAD REGARDING THE ISSUE RECIPROCITY. WOULD ALSO
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APPRECIATE RECOLLECTION OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD MEEKER ON THIS

POINT SINCE HE WAS HERE DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE LIBRARY SITE. ADVISE. WE WILL INCORPORATE RESPONSES FROM GEIS AND AMBASSADOR MEEKER INTO OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION AND WILL EXPECT TO MEET WITH ODCD WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOR HAS PURCHASED BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY TO HOUSE ITS UN MISSION, TRADE MISSION, TOURIST OFFICE AND THE ROMANIAN LIBRARY. THE SHIFT OF THE ROMANIAN LIBRARY FROM ITS PRESENT SITE TO THE PROPOSED NEW GOR BUILDING WOULD RAISE COMPLICATIONS FOR US IN TERMS OF THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE, E.G. ODCD COULD TRY TO RAISE OUR RENT HERE BASED ON CALCULATION OF RENTAL COST OF ROMANIAN LIBRARY SPACE IN THE NEW GOR BUILDING. AT THE SAME TIME, GOR EQUITY IN A BUILDING IN THE U.S. COULD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR US TO PURCHASE PRESENT SITE OF AMERICAN LIBRARY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE GOR RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE HERE. AT ANY RATE A STATUS REPORT ON GOR EFFORTS TO MOVE THE OFFICES NOTED ABOVE INTO THE BUILDING PURCHASED IN NYC WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. POST REPEATS THAT WE PLAN TO MEET WITH ODCD AND WILL NEED REPLIES BOTH FROM GEIS AND AMBASSADOR MEEKER (ON RECIPROCITY) AND THE AGENCY ON GOR BUILDING IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS.
BARNES

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